

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EPA-04 OES-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-10 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-06

HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-02 OIC-02

PA-02 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 FEAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4493

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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FOR EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CCMS, SENV, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 216476

1. ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO GON AT THIS TIME ARE ACCIDENTAL OIL SPILLS, FRESH WATER RESOURCES AND TRANSBOUNDARY SULPHUR DIOXIDE. WHILE BRAVO PLATFORM BLOWOUT LAST APRIL RESULTED IN ONLY LIMITED POLLUTION, GON IS VERY CONCERNED THAT NORWEGIAN PUBLIC SEES ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS OVER NORTH SEA OIL OPERATIONS AS CLEARLY PROTECTING NATIONAL HERITAGE. REPORT ON BRAVO BLOWOUT DUE IN OCTOBER WILL, WE EXPECT, STRESS HUMAN ERROR AND FAILURE TO OBSERVE SET PROCEDURES AS CRUCIAL FACTORS IN ACCIDENT AND PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION PROCEDURES. CONCERN ABOUT FRESH WATER RESOURCES IS FOCUSSED ON LAKE MJOESA WHERE INDUSTRIAL AND MUNICIPAL WASTES ARE LOWERING
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QUALITY OF THIS MAJOR SOURCE OF WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. REGULATIONS ARE EXPECTED SHORTLY TO CONTROL LEVELS OF PHOSPHORUS IN DETERGENT PERMITTED FOR USE IN MJOESA AREA; OTHER REGULATIONS AIMED AT CONTROLLING TOXIC SUBSTANCES ARE IN PREPARATION; MEANS TO MINIMIZE POLLUTION ATTRIBUTABLE TO AIR BORN SULPHUR DIOXIDE ARE UNDER DISCUSSION WITH UK, FRG, AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS.

2. NORWEGIANS ARE SENSITIVE TO INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND WILL SUPPORT US EFFORTS IN RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION, OCEAN POLLUTION (THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RESEARCH INTO EFFECTS OF SMALL CONCENTRATION OF OIL ON MARINE LIFE), TO FURTHER THE RATIONAL USE OF PESTICIDES, CONTROL EROSION AND BETTER UNDERSTAND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. THERE ARE OTHER AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN AS WELL: THE GON IS PREPARING TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT AUTO EMISSION CONTROLS, FLUOROCARBONS (PARTICULARLY IN REFRIGERATION AND SYNTHETIC RUBBER PRODUCTION) AND PCB LEVELS IN NORWEGIAN COMMUNITIES.

3. THE GON HAS GIVEN ITS ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY HAS FAIRLY WIDE POWER TO REGULATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TO MEET ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES. CONFLICTS BETWEEN OBJECTIVES CAN RISE TO CABINET LEVEL FOR RESOLUTION. A MOVE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY WHICH THE PRESENT MUNICIPAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO ORGANIZATIONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT CHANGE THE PRESENT EMPHASIS GIVEN TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. A MORE INTERESTING QUESTION, HOWEVER, IS EXTENT TO WHICH PUBLIC NORWEGIAN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, SO CALLED "GREEN MOVEMENT", HAS INFLUENCE HERE. WITHIN LIMITS, GON IS CLEARLY SYMPATHETIC TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. EMBASSY PLANS TO LOOK INTO EXTENT TO WHICH

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"GREEN MOVEMENT" WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SUCH LIMITS AND LIKELIHOOD OF BEING ABLE TO DO SO IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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